Amendment of Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously presented) A rainscreen apparatus including: a substantially rigid air barrier adapted for attachment to a building structure wherein said rigid air barrier is in the form of at least one thin sheet comprising a polymeric or substantially water repellent cellulosic material, said sheet having a relatively rigid reinforcing means attached thereto; a rainscreen panel adapted for attachment over the air barrier; a spacing member adapted to provide a clearance space between the air barrier and the rainscreen panel; and sealing means adapted to provide substantial pressure equalisation within the clearance space.
15. (Previously presented) A rainscreen apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said sheet includes a polyolefin material having a relatively rigid reinforcing means including a mesh of fibreglass, metal or polymeric material laminated to at least one surface of said sheet.

16. (Currently amended) A rainscreen apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said sheet includes a polyolefin material having a relatively rigid reinforcing means including a series of battens ~~or the like~~ laminated to at least one surface of said sheet.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Previously presented) A rainscreen apparatus including: at least two adjacent substantially rigid air barriers adapted for attachment to a building structure; a rainscreen panel adapted for attachment over the air barriers; a spacing member adapted to provide a clearance space between the air barriers and the rainscreen panel; sealing means adapted to provide substantial pressure equalisation within the clearance space; and a rainscreen air barrier joint seal for sealing a joint between the at least two adjacent rigid air barriers, said seal including a sealing strip of a substantially resilient material having a first surface and a second surface opposite to said first surface, said first surface being adapted to contact said rigid air barriers, and at least one batten provided in use over said second surface of the seal strip, said batten being in contact with the second surface so as to maintain said first surface of the strip in contact with the region of said air barrier adjacent to said joint.
24. (Previously presented) A rainscreen air barrier joint seal according to claim 23 wherein said first surface has an adhesive provided thereon.
25. (Previously presented) A rainscreen air barrier joint seal according to claim 23 wherein said second surface has an adhesive provided thereon.

26. (Previously presented) A rainscreen apparatus including: a substantially rigid air barrier adapted for attachment to a building structure; a rainscreen panel adapted for attachment over the air barrier; a spacing member adapted to provide a clearance space between the air barrier and the rainscreen panel; a sealing means adapted to provide substantial pressure equalisation within the clearance space; and a rainscreen flashing including a first edge portion adapted to be located on or adjacent to a lower edge of said air barrier, a second edge portion adapted to be located on or adjacent to an upper region of said rainscreen panel provided below said air barrier, and a central portion which is contiguous with said first and second edge portions and is provided at a substantially obtuse angle to said first and second edge portions.
27. (Previously Presented) A rainscreen flashing according to claim 26 wherein said central portion slopes downwardly to allow water to drain over said central portion and exterior to said rainscreen panel.
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Previously presented) A rainscreen apparatus including: a substantially rigid air barrier adapted for attachment to a building structure; a rainscreen panel adapted for attachment over the air barrier; a spacing member adapted to provide a clearance space between the air barrier and the rainscreen panel; a sealing means adapted to provide substantial pressure equalisation within the clearance space; and a rainscreen seal construction including a batten for location on the air barrier, a sealing member having a base and at least two lips projecting from said base, said lips being spaced from each other, one lip being adapted to make a substantially sealing contact with a rear surface of a first rainscreen panel, and the second lip being adapted to make a substantially sealing contact with the rear surface of a second rainscreen panel, said second panel being located adjacent to the first panel.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1, the method including the steps of:

    attaching said rigid air barrier to an external side of building framing;

    attaching one or more battens over an exterior surface of said rigid air barrier; and

    attaching said rain-screen panel over at least one of said battens.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rigid air barrier is in the form of a panel.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is between approximately 2-15mm thick.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is between approximately 5-7mm thick.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel includes fibre cement, oriented strand-board, plywood, metal, expanded polymeric foam or a combination of these.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel includes a cementitous material, oriented strand-board, plywood, metal, polymeric foam or a combination of these.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel is between approximately 2-15mm thick.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel is between approximately 7-11mm thick.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel is substantially 9mm thick.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

41. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 including the steps of:

providing said rigid air barrier;

coating said air barrier with a water resistant material,

attaching one or more battens over an exterior surface of said air barrier;

fixing said rain-screen panel over said battens such that rain-screen panel is spaced from said air barrier; and

coating the exterior surface of said rain-screen panel with a substantially water resistant material.